

## **Part 2**

# **How to Maintain Your Geothermal System**

## **Does My Geothermal Heat Pump Need Annual Maintenance?**

If you have a geothermal heat pump (a.k.a. a ground-source heat pump) keeping your home cool in summer and warm in winter, then you already have one of the best comfort systems available at work for you. Geothermal heat pumps are energy-efficient, dependable, beneficial for the environment, and have lifespans that leave standard heat pumps, air conditioners, and furnaces far behind.

However, don't let the long service life of a geothermal heating and cooling system trick you into thinking that you don't need to take care of it with regular maintenance. Just as with a standard heat pump or other comfort system, your geothermal heat pump must receive annual maintenance inspection from trained professionals at least once a year.

### **The importance of regular geothermal heat pump maintenance**

Here is something that is important to keep in mind with a geothermal heat pump: even though it uses ground loops to release and absorb heat, the components inside the house are very similar to those of an air source heat pump. This means it needs the same type of regular care that standard heat pumps need. During a maintenance visit, the technician checks over the components of the indoor unit of the system to see that the coils and motors are clean, all mechanical parts lubricated, the air filter unclogged, the condensate drain clear, and the electrical connections are tightened.

There are a few special checks a maintenance technician must do for a geothermal system, such as looking over the manifold and the heat exchanger where the antifreeze in the loops transfers heat to or from the indoor refrigerant.

This routine maintenance serves the same purpose for a geothermal heat pump as it does for any comfort system: prolong its service life, protect its efficiency, catch malfunctions, and prevent future repair issue.

A geothermal system is a major investment, and you want yours to last as long as possible so that you reap the greatest benefit from its energy-efficient performance.